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THE LAST WORDS...

Upto 25% of bio-diversity could be lost in the next 30-50 years due to climate change - even the Pentagon and the government's chief scientist think it's a bigger threat than "terrorism". What we gonna do? Write to your MP? Ask the corporations like Exxon, Shell etc. to be nice? Put in energy efficient lightbulbs and hope that'll fix it?

It's time to destroy capitalism before it destroys the planet.

We're all going
to Hell

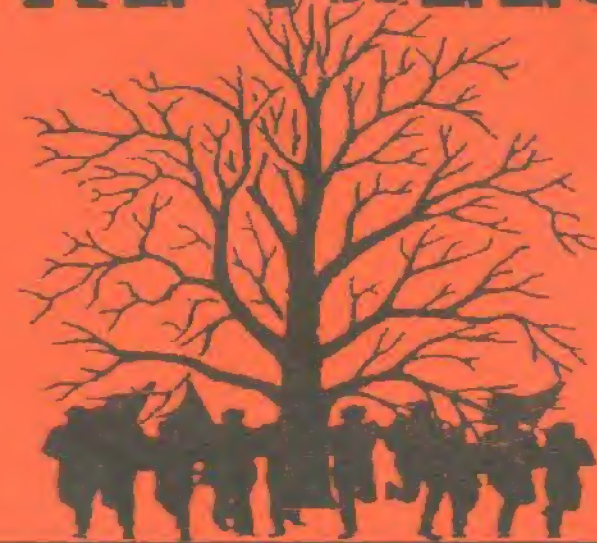


Earth First!

Issue no. 92 March 04

50p/Donation

HEAD FOR THE TREES!



Action Update

@nticopyright - Information for action! Photocopy and distribute!

IT WAS US WOT WON IT!

Bayer abandon GM crop as company
buckles under pressure
see page 4

Better Late Than
Never...

Next issue out in May



CONTRIBUTE!

We need you to contribute to the EFI Action Update (it doesn't write itself ya know). Send us your action reports, news, events, personal accounts, letters, rants, reflections, short articles, artwork, prisoner info and any feedback.

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Earth First! is (deep breath) "not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar ideas to work under. The general principles behind EFI are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and it's inhabitants." The Action Update is passed to a different group each year (it's currently coming out of a bedsit in Brighton) - the views expressed here do not represent those of any living organism, only that of a mythical collective being.



UK Ecological Direct Action Groups



If you know of any changes or additions to this list please tell us! If there is not a group in your area starting one is easy, get together with a couple of your mates and call yourself Earth First! That's what everyone here has done. For more contacts visit www.earthfirst.org.uk

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Bath BA1 2ZD

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07771 547 576

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W Sussex BN14 7NZ
worthing@eco-action.org
www.eco-action.org/
porkbolter

Solidarity South Pacific

SSP have just released
their Spring newsletter!

Contact them at
ssp@eco-action.org
www.eco-action.org/ssp

PRISONERS OF WAR



They're Inside for us, we're outside for them

Supporting prisoners is vital solidarity in struggle. Support prisoners by writing to them, raising funds and publicising their situation, as well as continuing resistance.

Prison is designed to grind you down, and it isolates people from the outside world. Writing to prisoners helps break this down. Just sending a card with a few well wishes and some words about who you are can brighten up someone's day and make them feel remembered.

Prison life is dead boring, and any news that liven it up is generally welcome. Use your sense, don't write about things that are likely to get the prisoner into trouble with the screws or get you or anyone else into trouble. You need to include a return address, on the back of the envelope as well or it won't get to them. Check before sending books or anything else as rules vary from prison to prison - usually publications have to come direct from the publisher. You can normally send a couple of stamps or international reply coupons (available from the post office) and photocopied stuff is usually fine as well.

Prisoner News

Anti-GM Prisoner

René Riesel is serving seven months for destroying GM crops at a farm in Novartis and also for destroying crops in the CIRAD (Centre International de recherche Agronomique pour le développement) laboratory, in the south of France, in 1998. Write to him at: René RIESEL, n° d'écrou 4612, Maison d'Arrêt 37 chemin Séjalon, 48000 MENDE, FRANCE.

Japan Releases Sea Shepherd Crew

As reported last issue, Sea Shepherd - of whaler ramming fame- had two of its crew jailed in November for the liberation of 15 trapped dolphins due for slaughter. In response to the arrests pickets outside Japanese embassies were held in 28 cities across the globe. On December 10th the crew were released and deported back to America. In Britain demos were done in both London and Edinburgh. The London picket, though worthwhile, had a disappointing turnout - around thirty people in all. Considering the size of the radical ecological and animal liberationist scenes here, hopefully next time Sea Shepherd end up in hot water our reaction will be stronger.

Free Free!

There's a day of autonomous solidarity actions for Jeffrey 'Free' Luers on June the 12th. Free is inside for 22 years for trashing 3 4x4's in North America. You can write to Free at: Jeffrey Luers, #13797671, Oregon State Prison, 2605 State Street, Salem OR 97310, USA.

Resources and Contacts

ABC Brighton (anarchist prisoner support) PO Box 74, Brighton BN1 4ZQ, UK.
www.brightonabc.org.uk mail@brightonabc.org.uk

ALFSG (Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group) BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX, UK

Earth Liberation Prisoners BM Box 2407, London WC1N 3XX, UK www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk
earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com

Legal Defence & Monitoring Group (LDMG) BM Box Haven, London WC1N 3XX, UK Tel: 020 8245 2930 (24hr answerphone) ldmg@mail@yahoo.co.uk, www2.phreak.co.uk/ldmg/

HEAD FOR THE TREES!

As we type several of this island's remaining wild areas are under threat. Nine Ladies in Derbyshire, Blackwood in South Wales and Mansfield in Nottinghamshire are to be 'developed' for quarrying, a road for an industrial estate, and for housing respectively.

Two of the three sites at Blackwood have already been evicted and it is there people are most urgently needed. Nine Ladies is expecting eviction any day soon.

There's a full round up of UK protest sites on pages 6 & 7 and ideas on what you can do on page 13.



Page 3 Tree - Hawthorn

Crataegus Oxycantha

The Hawthorn is a small tree of the rose family and is so named because of its usage in hedgerows where it was planted to create a stock proof barrier before the invention of strain wire fences. The word haw is thought to be an older word for hedge.

The hawthorn has been associated with the spring since prehistory. With the exception of ornamental cherries, this tree is the first to come into blossom and is easily distinguishable from its cousin the Blackthorn because of this. It is because of the early blossom that it is often seen as a sign of the lessening of the grip of winter.

In one of the earliest collection of stories from these isles, the Mabinogion, the hawthorn appears as a great giant called Yspaddaden Pencawr. It is here that the brave Cullwch falls in love with Olwen, the giants' daughter who walks leaving a trail of blossom behind her. He has to undertake many tasks set by the Giant in order to marry the young maiden. In another earlier story from and Ares were conceived when Hera touched hawthorn blossoms. When children were sick they were often taken to hawthorn trees whilst pagan prayers were said for their recovery. The Hawthorn is still often found festooned with cloth and offerings at the old wells of Britain and Europe where wishes are made.

The tree appears more often in hedges since the Enclosures Act of 1845 where peasants were thrown off their land and common land. Massive areas of the countryside were 'inherited' by landowners, the country folk magical tree then becoming an instrument of division and derision by the money minded barons.

Medical science suggests that the hawthorn leaves contain sedative and antispasmodic qualities making it a great regulator of arterial blood pressure and is great for blood circulation problems such as angina.

BAYER BEATEN!

Bayer have today (31st March) announced that they are abandoning plans to grow their GM maize (Chardon LL). This means it is unlikely GM crops will be commercially grown in this country until at least 2008.

The reason for the decision was stated as being the economic non-viability of this five year old variety, given uncertainties over strict government guidelines. The government were obviously stalling the process, because they didn't want to make a decision on commercialisation of GM until after the election. Downing Street officials had warned the Prime Minister there could be 'pitched battles in the fields' during a general election campaign next spring.

Bayer had tried to halt opposition to their GM crops by obtaining a permanent injunction on February 11th against several individuals and groups including the Stop Bayer's GM Crops campaign. But you have to be served with the injunction for it to have an effect, so this just lead to more hit and run actions.

A committed, diverse and at times militant approach to campaigning against genetics over the last eight years has lead to this victory. The intense focus of actions against Bayer since last years EF! Summer gathering is what broke the GM camel's back. See the website for a full list.

Pied then P45'ed!

Paul Rylott, head of Bayer Cropscience's GM unit - who had become the public face of the GM industry in Britain, was recently pied (see pic) after giving a talk on how to overcome consumer resistance to GM food. He was then sacked along with all the heads of Bayers GM operations across Europe. This was followed by the resignation of Micheal O'Brien (a Bayer Cropscience Director) who claimed he was completely disassociating himself from Bayer.



These are clear signs of a company buckling under pressure.

Recent actions:

Various offices and buildings belonging to Bayer have had their locks superglued and fences cut. Messages telling Bayer to pull out of GM have been painted on their walls

Conferences that Bayer executives have been attending have been disrupted, including cancelling airport flights and hoax security alerts.

Bayer have been bombarded with emails, faxes and phone calls disrupting their day-to-day business.

The demoralisation of a company through the creation of an 'unpleasant working environment' is not to be underestimated.

Bayer say they are still committed to GM crops in the UK though, in response a new sub-campaign has been launched: Boycott Bayer!

See www.stopbayergm.org for more upcoming actions. To get involved contact your local group (see page 15)

HOW TO... HELP IN EVICTIONS

Cut out and keep!

If you want to be on site for the eviction try and come in advance.

Get to know the people better, layout and terrain (hillsides, steep cliffs). Get used to the physical demands of exercise, exposure, etc. Find alternative routes onto and around site that you can do safely at night/quickly/with rucksack. Bring in bottled water, tinned food, and other heavy/bulky items early to stash. Help build defences. Choose a place get prepared in advance instead of wishing you had thought of something before. It is good to come in groups with people you know and work well with, share cooking equipment, support each other.

What you could do with in your rucksack

High energy food and drink for a few days: flapjacks/dried fruit/nuts/chocolate/glucose tabs. Tin opener, bread/pasties/whatever you like. Warm waterproof clothes, good footwear, hat/hood/balaclava/face paint, gloves, bumbag, sleeping bag/s, tarp/bivy bag. Penknife, lighter, toothbrush, torch/headtorch + batteries, loo roll + plastic bags, mobile, camera, book?! Radio? Notebook + pen. Extra socks. Whistle. Ideally a net (haulage/dock companies) to suspend between tress/hammock, climbing harness (under clothes), wrist clip, spare climbing rope, flask/cooker/pan/quick food...

Other ways to help

Solidarity actions - Undersherrifs house/ bailiffs hotel/ quarry company offices.
Information gathering - tailing climber/ tree surgeons/ security.
Transport - ferrying people and tat - ring to find out stash points if access is restricted.
Legal observers - witnessing/recording on paper/audio/video. Details of arrests.
Legal support - at police stations/courts. Manning a temporary central contact phone line 'office'.
General presence - show support, camp nearby, keep security busy.
Aftercare - providing/finding space for people to regroup and recuperate, bail addresses.

London Rising Tide pickets BP Tangguh Gas Greenwash Meeting

A deep-frozen London Rising Tide were on hand to meet and greet those NGOs and 'socially responsible' investors attending a meeting organised by BP and the 'Tangguh Independent Advisory Panel' (TIAP). TIAP is made up of Senator George Mitchell, (Chairman of TIAP and now also of Disney!), Lord David Hannay, Reverend Herman Saud and Ambassador Sabam Siagian, all of whom are on the BP payroll.

The meeting was Liquefied Natural Gas (Indonesia), a supremely BP has a controlling Gas also has a large

LRT held aloft their 'Oil which had been modified chaos'. Met Police and BP a slow trickle of people low numbers may have had something to do with the information about the Baku Ceyhan pipeline and about Tangguh which had been circulated to all invitees beforehand by LRT. Chief NGOs collaborating with BP on Tangguh appear to be the WWF and Conservation International.



concerning the Tangguh (LNG) project in West Papua dodgy development in which stake, (and in which British holding.)

fuels climate chaos' banner, to read 'NGOs fuel climate security were also on hand as made their way inside - the

More Info london@risingtide.org.uk www.burningplanet.net www.risingtide.org.uk

British Eco-Activist Dead in the Amazon

Emily Craddock, a 27 year old from London was found dead in the Amazon in mid December. Initial reports are that she drowned - little else is known as yet.

Emily was acting as a radio operator on the Greenpeace boat MV Arctic Sunrise. She had been an active campaigner since her early teens when among other projects she went to the Greek island of Zakynthos to aid its turtle population, then endangered by hotel expansion. The MV Arctic Sunrise was navigating the Amazon as part of GP's campaign against logging in Tropical forests - a cause she had previously served in Papua New Guinea.

Just a few weeks before she died she wrote:

"When we sail past plumes of smoke rising from the jungle I feel like we are witnessing the funeral of another hectare of tress in a land that cannot afford to lose any more... There are one hundred and seventy Indian nationalities and one thousand species of birds that we know of living here. The illegal logging, the soya plantations, cattle ranching and road building are making them all slowly but steadily homeless."

In remembering both her death and that of one of the earths last great wilderness the hackneyed old slogan hold true 'Don't mourn - Organise!'

Boycott Bayer

We have won the battle but the war isn't over. Bayer are currently trying to persuade Europe to import GM rice and they will continue to develop GM varieties. In response a sub-campaign has been launched: Boycott Bayer! The aim is to persuade people not to buy Bayer's products due to their involvement with GM. These products include alkazelter, germaloids, Baby-Bio, Phostrogen and veterinary products such as worming tablets for pets. There are hundreds of colour posters and sickers available- order from www.boycottbayer.com.

DAMMIT!

In Iceland, work has already begun on a colossal \$1Billion dam which, when it opens in 2007, will cover a highland wilderness - all to drive one US aluminium smelter.

The wilderness, a vast panorama of wild rivers, waterfalls, brooding mountains, mossy highlands thick with flowers, is a hotspot for biodiversity. Birdlife International have recognised the wetlands as an important bird area primarily because of its importance for the pink footed goose (Anser Brachyrhynchus), this being the largest breeding colony of these birds in the world, it also has birds such as the Purple Sandpiper and Red necked Phalarope.

The 190m high 730m wide dam, 2 smaller saddle dams, plus 53km of headrace tunnels will be paid for by Landsvirkjun (the national power company - owned jointly by the Icelandic government, the city of Reykjavick and the town of Akureyri).

In August 2001 Iceland's national planning agency (NPA) rejected the project on the grounds of 'Substantial, irreversible negative environmental impact'. Just four months later the minister for the environment overturned the decision.

Aluminium smelters emit huge quantities of Greenhouse gasses. In 2001, super clean Iceland was able to negotiate a 10% increase in permitted emissions under the Kyoto Protocol - the biggest increase in the world. In effect Alcoa is buying Iceland's licence to pollute.

The Ministry of Environment also gave Alcoa a license to emit 12kg of sulphur dioxide per tonne of aluminium produced - 12 times the level the World Bank expects from modern smelters.

Icelandic writer Gudbergur Bergsson says the Icelandic government is heavily under the spell of US driven globalisation, which they want to be part of. He adds that Icelanders hate to look ridiculous - "If the international community can show them how truly ridiculous it is to destroy nature, the very thing they love most, for one aluminium smelter, they may start to think for themselves. They might finally have the guts to speak up and tell their dictatorial government how absolutely they have got this wrong."

ST. DAVID'S WOODS, BLACKWOOD

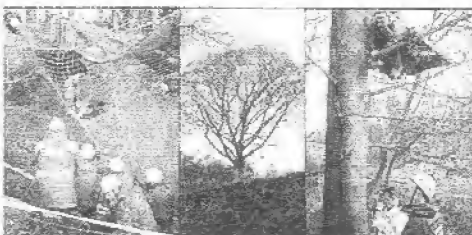
Ancient woodland near Blackwood in South Wales is being destroyed by Costain to build a road for an arms factory.

At time of printing, 2 of the 3 camps have been evicted but not without uncompromising defence involving experienced and new activists many of whom are local.

Tree-climbing, bailiff dodging, tunnelling and persistent digger-diving have greatly slowed work.

Directions: Bus to blackwood from Cardiff. St David's wood visible on skyline on right hand side of valley (if coming from Cardiff- on left hand side if coming from the north) it's a 15 min walk from blackwood High Street.

Phone 07952 774525 or 07708 420 446



PRIORY PARK

A team of climbers from the action group 'Parklife' have occupied trees, in a further act of defiance, against proposals to press ahead with controversial plan F5 to dual the A1159. Priory Crescent, Southend on Sea, Essex.

For more info/directions email: priory_parklife@yahoo.co.uk

SHERWOOD GREEN

Mansfield Woodhouse / Sherwood Forest tree camp have won a two month reprieve.

Following an intensive local campaign, supported by campaigners from around the region and around the world, Mansfield District Council agreed, at an 10th March meeting, to an independent inquiry into the feasibility of the proposed junction.

An eviction could still happen though, keep an eye out for news - call the Sumac centre on 0845 458 9595 to be put on the phone tree.



NINE LADIES



The site at Nine Ladies has existed since September 1999 to stop the planned quarrying of Stanton Moor. As well as supporting fallow deer, badgers and other wildlife, Stanton Moor is also a Bronze Age burial site including the Nine Ladies stone circle. Papers have been served so eviction could happen any day now

The presence of the site has deterred quarry expansion in the Peak District, and direct action has taken place throughout the campaign.

Directions: Catch the R61 or TransPeak (both TRENT) to Rowsley (Peacock Hotel). Turn left following the sign for Stanton-in-Peak. (It's up a 1-in-4 hill). Keep following this road until you reach a junction, then take the sharp left hand turn, which is sign-posted Stanton Lees. Carry on past a phone box, and on and on and on the site entrance is on your right and may have a vehicle (or several) parked near to it.

There are now various signs marking the entrance. The path leads towards an old barn, near which is the communal bender and an information trailer. The National Grid reference for the site is SK247634

Marshalls occupied. An office occupation of a Marshalls PLC (the company trying to quarry Nine Ladies) building took place on the 25th March in Elland, West Yorkshire, as a group of up to 25 activists from Yorkshire, Manchester, Derbyshire and Lancashire decided to ram home the message that corporate exploitation and destruction of our woodlands will not go unchallenged.

Phone: 07876 311 709 Web: www.nineladies.uklinux.net
Email: sparky@nineladies.zoom.co.uk

BILSTON WOOD

The site at Bilston Glen is to stop the 're-alignment' of the A701 which will destroy mature woodland lead to further industrialisation

Bilston is 8 miles south of Edinburgh, follow the footpath opposite the VW garage.
Phone: 07986 632 429
Web: www.bilstonglen-abs.org.uk
Email: info@bilstonglen-abs.org.uk

FASLANE PEACE CAMP

At 21 years, the longest running camp in the UK. People at Faslane have been persistently disrupting the nuclear submarine base in Scotland.

Right outside Faslane Naval Base, 20 miles west of Glasgow, Scotland.
Phone: 01436 820 901
Web: www.faslanepeacecamp.org.uk
Email: contact@faslanepeacecamp.org.uk